(c) if so, the steps taken to prevent Taliban/Al-Qaeda fighters sneaking into India and to have the militant training camps closed or destroyed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Reports indicate presence of Al-Qaeda elements in Pakistan and PoK. Reports further indicate that the international coalition against terrorism is currently also engaged in locating these elements in Pakistan. There have been statements by Pakistani officials claiming that Pakistan had asked the US military not to enter its territory without permission in pursuit of Al Qaeda and Taliban fugitives fleeing from parts of Afghanistan into Pakistan.

(b) Despite its own commitments and international obligations, Pakistan has not dismantled the terrorist infrastructure in its territory or territories under its control, although some camps were temporarily shifted or relocated in interior areas during June-August, 2002. Many of these camps have since been reactivated. There is no indication that Pakistan has reduced or stopped its support to terrorism.

(c) Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism and preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country. Government have also made it clear that there can be no dialogue with Pakistan until its sponsorship and support for cross-border terrorism is ended. Attention of the international community has also been drawn to the dangers posed by Pakistan being the epicentre of international terrorism. Many countries have called upon Pakistan to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism in that country and to stop being a platform for international terrorism.

Funding of terrorists by ISI

1007. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ISI has doubled the money for terrorist organizations as an inducement to continue strikes in India and that militants have been told to maintain units along the LoC;

(b) if so, whether Government have advised the western countries

that their enhanced financial aid to Pakistan, as a price for support to activities of Al-Qaeda, is being misused for intensifying terrorism; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Despite its commitment to end cross-border infiltration permanently, not allow the territory of Pakistan to used for terrorism anywhere in the world, and not allow any organization in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir, Pakistan has continued its sponsorship, support and providing safe haven to international terrorism. The infrastructure of support for such terrorism including training camps, funding and launching stations have also been sustained.

(b) and (c) Government have been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. Government have also pointed out that any double standards in the fight against terrorism would make the efforts of the international coalition self-defeating. Government have also conveyed their view that donor countries have not adequately used their economic leverage to influence Pakistan to end its sponsorship and support for international terrorism.

Passports of Pakistani terrorists

†1008. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Pak aatankiyon ko Dhaka se passport", appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated the 24th December, 2002;

(b) the estimated number of terrorists who entered into the country on the basis of Bangladeshi passport; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.